# USING EMOTICONS, SUCH AS FOR WIRELESS DEVICES

## CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001]   This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/588,307, filed Jul. 15, 2004, which is herein incorporated by reference.

## BACKGROUND

[0002]   Written communication plays an integral role in modern social, economic, and cultural life. Writing facilitates the transfer and preservation of information and ideas. However, without direct access to facial expression, body language, and voice inflection, the potential for misunderstanding written communications is considerable.

[0003]   The Internet culture has developed emoticons as a way to compensate for some of the limitations of written communication. The term "emoticon" is shorthand for "emotive icon." Emoticons are typically comprised of a sequence of characters and symbols that connote some emotional state. Emoticons commonly appear in email, chat, text messaging, and other forms of written, electronic communication to express moods or tone in ways that text alone cannot. For example, ':-)' is frequently used to indicate pleasure, ':-(' displeasure. Typically, users manually input a sequence of characters and symbols to construct an emoticon. In many applications, the sequence is automatically converted into a graphic. The following provides an example of currently used emoticons, and the key strokes involved in their input.

| Emoticon: | Description: |
| --- | --- |
| :-) or :) | Smile |
| ;-) or ;) | Wink |
| :-D or :D | Big smile |
| :-)) or :)) | Very happy |
| :0) | Big nose smiley |
| \|-) | Cool! |
| >:-) or >:) | Evil grin |
| >;-> or >;> | Evil grin with a wink |
| :-X or :X | My lips are sealed |
| }:-) or }:) | Devilish |
| :-` ) or :-`) | Tongue in cheek |
| :-P or :P | Sticking out tongue |
| :-& or :& | Tongue tied |
| :op | Puppy face |
| 0:-) or 0:) | Saint |
| :-)8 or :)8 | Happy wearing a bow tie |
| 8-) or 8) | Happy with glasses |
| #-) | I partied all night |
| %-) or %) | Drunk |
| :-###.. or :###.. | Being sick |
| %-( or %( | Confused |
| :-0 or :0 | Shocked |
| :-o or :o | Surprised |
| :-\| or :\| | Indecision |
| :'-( or :'( | Crying |
| :'-) or :') | Crying of happiness |
| :-( or :( | Sad |

[0004]   Increased access to written communications on mobile devices has brought emoticons to the wireless world. Given the compact nature of the typical mobile device, however, inputting emoticons on a mobile device can be a cumbersome and time-consuming process. This problem is further exacerbated as the base of commonly used emoticons grows to include new emoticons, which are often built from increasingly long and complex strings of characters and symbols.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005]   FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing an example of a system for providing access to emoticons in one embodiment.

[0006]   FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing an example implementation of the mobile device of FIG. 1.

[0007]   FIG. 3 is a display diagram showing a combination of interfaces for selecting an emoticon in the system of FIG. 1.

[0008]   FIG. 4 is a display diagram showing an example of a mobile device keypad for selecting emoticons in one embodiment.

[0009]   FIG. 5 is a flow diagram showing a second combination of interfaces for selecting an emoticon in one embodiment.

[0010]   FIG. 6 is a flow diagram showing a routine for selecting an emoticon using a single dedicated key or shared dedicated key in one embodiment.

[0011]   FIG. 7 is a flow diagram showing a routine for selecting an emoticon using a single dedicated key (or shared dedicated key) and a navigable palette in one embodiment.

[0012]   FIG. 8 is a flow diagram showing a routine for selecting an emoticon using a single dedicated key (or shared dedicated key) and a mapped palette in one embodiment.

[0013]   In the drawings, the same reference numbers identify identical or substantially similar elements or acts. To facilitate the discussion of any particular element or act, the most significant digit or digits in a reference number refer to the figure number in which that element is first introduced (e.g., element 204 is first introduced and discussed with respect to FIG. 2).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0014]   The invention will now be described with respect to various embodiments. The following description provides specific details for a thorough understanding of, and enabling description for, these embodiments of the invention. However, one skilled in the art will understand that the invention may be practiced without these details. In other instances, well-known structures and functions have not been shown or described in detail to avoid unnecessarily obscuring the description of the embodiments of the invention.

[0015]   It is intended that the terminology used in the description presented be interpreted in its broadest reasonable manner, even though it is being used in conjunction with a detailed description of certain specific embodiments of the invention. Certain terms may even be emphasized below; however, any terminology intended to be interpreted in any restricted manner will be overtly and specifically defined as such in this Detailed Description section.